



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

No bonds they felt; no ties they broke,
No music of the heart they woke,
When one brief moment it had spoke,
To lose it suddenly.

Peaceful they lived, peaceful they died;
And those that did their fate abide
Saw brothers wither by their side
In all tranquillity.

They loved not, dreamed not: for their sphere
Held not joy's visions; but the tear
Of broken hope, of anxious fear,
Was not their misery.

I envy them, those monks of old,
And when their statues I behold,
Carved in the marble, calm and cold,
How true an effigy!

I wish my heart as calm and still
To beams that fleet, and blasts that chill,
And pangs that pay joy's spendthrift ill
With bitter usury."

P.

THE NIGHT SINGER.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE DUBLIN PENNY JOURNAL.

SIR—In looking over your 50th number, I was much surprised indeed by the communication of your correspondent, H. E. who in reply to the inquiry of C. O'H. in a preceding number, respecting a bird which he denominated the "Night Singer," attributes to the Emberiza, or Bunting tribe, a talent which it is demonstrable, from the anatomical structure of their bill and throat, it is impossible they can possess. It is well known that the male robin redbreast, white throat, spotted fly-catcher, fauvette, or hedge sparrow, and wren, (all belonging to the sylvia or motacilla tribe,) sing in the evening, especially at the time when the female is engaged in discharging her maternal duties in hatching and bringing forth her young. All these have slender pointed bills, concave in the palate, while the bunting has its upper mandible so occupied by a hard tooth-like process, pressing on the tongue in such a manner, that, united with the inflexion downwards of the open of the bill, at the junction of the upper and lower mandibles, (evidently a provision by nature to enable the bird to break the hard grain or seed on which it chiefly feeds,) as renders it an absolute impossibility for the Bunting to produce anything but a short twittering note.

But beside this negative evidence, I can, from experience, venture to say almost positively, that the bird heard at night, in the neighbourhood of Rathgar, must have been the fauvette or hedge sparrow; and as this bird always remains close to the ground, and sometimes even perches on a stone while it sings, it is possible that H. E. may have had the reed bunting in sight while he listened to the song of the fauvette. It happened about seven or eight years ago, that near where I then lived, a pair of the birds I have named, the hedge sparrows, for two or three seasons built their nest in the brushwood of an elm tree, and I have repeatedly heard the male sing at night, while the female sat on the nest. It is an interesting fact, as showing not only the tameness of the little bird, but her excessive attachment to her young, that I have often taken the nest in my hand while she remained sitting on it, and carried all into the house, when I have had a few friends with me in the evening, and the utmost alarm she exhibited was shown by the sparkling of her brilliant eye, as she looked round uneasily at the group about her; and I have replaced the nest without her once quitting her charge.

But if further proof be necessary: in consequence of my having related to a friend, the above instance of the extreme familiarity of the fauvette, he took a nest, and reared in a cage some of the young, and I have seen with him a male which when full grown, frequently sung at night when a candle, or even a knife, or other glittering object, was presented to it.

I have nothing further to add, than that I have spoken to several of my ornithological friends, who all concur with me in opinion, that the bird I have named, the fauvette or hedge sparrow, was the "night singer" of Rathgar.

Suffolk-street.

RICHARD GLENNON.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE DUBLIN PENNY JOURNAL.

SIR—Your correspondent, C. O'H. requests that some ornithologist who has the inclination and the time to spare, will inform him if the nightingale has ever visited Ireland. This is a question which could only be answered by one thoroughly acquainted with the ornithology of Ireland, and the different collection of birds formed in different parts of the country. I think there is scarcely any one who could take upon himself the liberty of giving a positive answer to the question before us, but many might, as I do, state their opinions, with whatever information they may possess, which may tend to enlighten the subject.

For my part, I must say, I do not believe that the nightingale ever visited Ireland, or rather that it has never been naturalized in the country; for a single specimen having been shot here, (which might very readily occur, the distance from this to England being so short,) should not induce us to rank the nightingale as an Irish bird.

On examining any works on natural history connected with Ireland, I have never seen any notice whatever of the nightingale; but two or three birds are mentioned as night singers. The woodlark (*alauda arborea*), is said to sing all night in fine clear nights and warm weather, and by some has been mistaken for the nightingale. The blackcap, (*sylvia atricapella*) is a very sweet songster, and its notes are so similar to those of the nightingale, that in some parts of England it is called the mock nightingale. These two birds reside chiefly on the borders of woods, in situations precisely similar to those chosen by the nightingale, and I think it not improbable that your correspondent listened either to the blackcap or woodlark, the former of which has now taken up its abode with us for the summer months, and the latter is a constant inhabitant.

With regard to the powers of song possessed by the blackcap and woodlark, Mr. Selby says, that the former has much melody of song, though unequal in extent or power to that of the nightingale, and of the woodlark, that it is a delightful songster, surpassing the skylark in the melodious richness, though not in the variety of its notes.

England possesses many birds which are never met with in this country, although from the similarity of climate and situation, we would imagine that few species would occur in the one which did not in the other. Ireland, on the contrary, does not, as far as I am aware, contain a single species peculiar to itself. Some birds are met with certainly in much greater abundance here, but the species are few. The eagles are, generally speaking, more abundant in Ireland than in the sister country; but with a few exceptions, England is much richer in this department of nature.

I need not say that it gives me great pleasure indeed to see your Journal made the medium of communication on many subjects connected with natural history; and among other contributions lately made, I must particularly advert to the article on the "Corvorant," by Mr. Richard Glennon. It is by notices such as he has given, containing so many original observations and interesting particulars, that science is enriched. Here you have nature depicted as she really is—the description taken, with the object itself before you, and followed up by remarks made, either more immediately by the narrator, or some of his friends whose veracity cannot be questioned. Mr. Glennon has entered very minutely into the formation of the bill, feet, and other parts of the Corvorant, and afforded us another opportunity of admiring the beautiful adaptation of every part of the structure to the office assigned to it by the bountiful Creator of the universe.

I trust Mr. Glennon will favour us with many similar articles on some of our other birds, which I am sure he could easily do, from the numberless opportunities he possesses of seeing specimens of almost all our native birds in every state of plumage.

I am, Sir, &c.

JAMES MARSHALL, M.D.

Belfast